

Establishing a Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (BSSR) Integration Working Group:

Building on successes and identifying new opportunities

Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR)



Healthier Lives through Behavioral and Social Sciences



Congressional Direction

"The Committee believes that a more robust and focused NIH commitment to behavioral science research and training would yield significant improvements to the nation's health due to the important connections between behavior and health. Most of the leading public health issues facing our nation—including cancer, addiction, heart disease, mental illness, diabetes, violence, and AIDS—are rooted in individual and social behavior, yet behavioral science is decentralized across NIH's Institutes and Centers, and the NIH commitment to manage and directly fund this important research is limited. The Committee directs the Director to convene a special advisory panel of behavioral scientists and other community experts to complete an assessment providing recommendations on how to better integrate and realize the benefits to overall health from behavioral research at NIH. The Committee requests that this assessment be finalized before the end of fiscal year 2021 and that a report be submitted to the Committee at that time."





Proposal

Convene a Working Group of the Council of Councils to serve as the panel and provide recommendations





BSSR at NIH

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Addictive Benaviors			ntion, Learning & Memory		Developmental Process & Family Health					ake & Physical Activity			Healthcare & Disease Management		guage & tions Disorders		Mental Health	
 Processes / Mechanisms Prevention / Cessation Risk of Substance Use/Abuse 		 Neurobiological/Psychological Processes / Mechanisms of Attention, Learning and Memory Disorders of Attention, Learning & Memory (e.g., dementia) & Interventions 			 Developmental Processes from Conception to Death Maternal Health, Parental Behavior, Family Dynamics Adverse Events that Affect Development 		Death :h, Parental ly Dynamics	 Behaviors Asso Energy Intake & Treatment of OI Malnutrition 		ke & Expenditure of Obesity,	& Expenditure • F)besity, • F • N • N		 Healthcare Access Provider-Patient Interactions Health Literacy Medical Errors Treatment Adherance Disease Management 		in pressi	ocesses ive Verbal nmunication	 Bio-Psycho-Social Processes Involved in Regulating Mental Health/Illness Interventions Influences of Mental Health on Other Conditions 	
Pain, Injury,	Pain, Injury, & Disability Functional Impairments that Reduce Quality of Life Pathophysiology, Management, and Rehabilitation Prevention of Injury and Falls 			Sensation & Perception • Mechanisms of Sight, Sound, Taste, Touch, Smell, Interoception, Balance, Proprioception, Time, Temperature • Perception / Integration / Interpretation / Response			Sexual Beh • Sexual Attitudes / H • Bio-Psycho-Social I • Risky Sexual Behav • Interventions		iviors	Sle	eep)	Social Proce Determina			Stress, Trau Resilien	'	
Reduce Quality of Pathophysiology, and Rehabilitation									fluences	 Bio-Psycho-Soci Sleep Disorders Circadian Rhyth Effects of Sleep / Disease Risk SIDS 	s nms o on	6	 Social / Economic I Cultural/Communit Policy Impacts Health Disparities 		9 V • (Effects of Exposure Stressors/Trauma o Vell-Being Coping/Resilience nterventions		

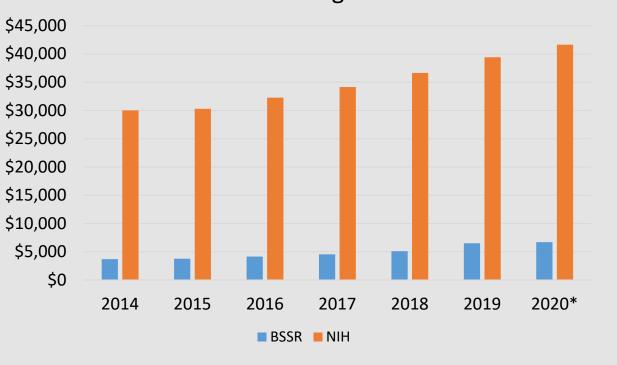




Trends in BSSR Funding

- Funding nearly doubled in the last seven years
- BSSR now accounts for about 16% of total extramural funding

BSSR Funding as A Proportion of NIH Funding



*2020 BSSR funding is an estimate

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Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

- At Congressional direction, OBSSR was established with in 1995 in recognition of the importance of health-related behavioral and social sciences and their contributions to the NIH mission.
 - Enhance the impact of health-related behavioral and social sciences research
 - Coordinate behavioral and social sciences research conducted or supported by the NIH and integrate these sciences within the larger NIH research enterprise
 - Communicate health-related behavioral and social sciences research findings to various stakeholders within and outside the federal government





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Examples of Trans-NIH BSSR Integration







Proposed Charge of CofC Working Group

- Assess the current status of BSSR in NIH supported research and training and identify existing
 processes that should continue or be enhanced as well as new opportunities for enhancing
 processes, coordination and integration of BSSR into research conducted across the Institutes,
 Centers, and Offices.
- To fulfill this charge, the Working Group will seek input from experts in behavioral and social sciences research and in the function and structure of the NIH research enterprise.
- Prepare a report including recommendations on ways to encourage greater BSSR integration and relevance to the research supported across the NIH, including but not limited to the functions of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research.
- The report and recommendations of the BSSR WG will be submitted to the Council of Councils for further consideration.





Proposed Composition of Working Group

- Co-Chairs: Christine Hunter, OBSSR and Paul Kenny, Council of Councils member
- Members selected from Institute, Center and Office Councils/Advisory Boards
- Approximately 8-10 members
- Supported by OBSSR Staff, Caitlin Burgdorf and Katie Morris, and the SCG contract





Timeline*

January 2021	Present proposal of the working group to Council of Councils					
February 2021	Initiate SCG contract for support; invite members					
March 2021	Develop introductory materials, schedule meetings for the year					
April 2021	First meeting					
July 2021	Second meeting					
September 2021	Third meeting, report outline written and action items					
November 2021	Fourth meeting, draft of the report written					
January 2022	Present final report to Council of Councils					

*This timeline assumes approval for an extension of the report deadline (currently Sept 30, 2021, but a six-month extension has been requested)

